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LB 496. Senator Kristensen on the advancement of LB 496.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I...Senator Beutler's questions, I believe, to the extent that if the public entity was authorized as a telecommunications carrier and that they wanted to come on, for example, to poles or other right-of-way space, I think they'd have to go and be authorized, one, to do that, and two, if there was room then they could put them on there. There are a wide variety of right-of-way issues that are left out here. Senator Beutler, you also talked about tower sitings, pole locations, and those sorts of issues. Those are the fights that are to come in the future. There are cities all over the country who really aren't so worried about right-of-ways, but who are interested in and saying, well look, here's all these unsightly towers, but they're dangerous to us. We don't like the looks of them, or for other reasons. This state's not tackled tower siting yet, and I assume that in a few years we will, particularly as there's a growth of some of the other services and technologies. You're going to need more poles and more towers. And there's a variety of things that you could require them to look like. They aren't just the usual, standard antenna. I'd also...I'd like to take this opportunity...the League of Municipalities, the City of Lincoln was very good to work with in terms of working out this amendment. And oftentimes, those things are done and it takes a considerable amount of time and a few weeks for everybody to look at where they want to go and what they want to do. I do think that obviously, under the terms of the statute, that when we talk about the definition of public roads, those have always included cities, counties, and other municipalities for their rights-of-ways. And this bill obviously would bootstrap into that, cement that, what has been the custom and tradition in this state, and will continue to allow that to occur. And I'd be happy to answer any other questions, Mr. President, at this point in time.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Mr. President, I move the advancement of LB 496 to E & R for engrossing.